

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 18 are amended. Claims 10 and 24 are canceled. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-9, 11-23, and 25-38 will remain pending.

In the Office Action dated July 2, 2004, the Examiner objected to claims 10 and 24 but stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations formerly recited by claim 10. Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the limitations formerly recited by claim 24. With these changes, claims 1 and 18 are now in condition for allowance. Since claims 2-9, 11-23, and 25-38 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 18, these claims also should be in condition for allowance.

Before closing, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the Interview on November 12, 2004.

If there are any fees due for entry of this submission that are not otherwise accounted for, the Applicant asks that any such fees be charged to our Deposit Account No. 03-3975, with reference to Order No. 071419/0306773.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP



JEFFREY D. KARCESKI

Reg. No. 35914

Tel. No. 703.905.2110

Customer No. 00909

Date: November 18, 2004
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000